

SEVERE LOCAL STORMS

[Compiled by Mary O. Souder from reports submitted by Weather Bureau Officials]

The table herewith contains such data as has been received concerning severe local storms that occurred during the month. A revised list of tornadoes will appear in the United States Meteorological Yearbook.]

Place	Date	Time	Width of path, yards	Loss of life	Value of property destroyed	Character of storm	Remarks
Atwood and Beardsley, Kans., and vicinities.	1	8 p. m.	13		\$10,000	Heavy hail	Loss in wheat and barley, in some spots, 50 percent; path 15 miles long.
Forestburg, S. Dak., vicinity of.	2	P. m.				Heavy rain and high wind.	2.85 inches of rain accompanied by high wind and light hail in a small area, washed and pounded down corn and alfalfa.
Canton, S. Dak., and vicinity	3	5-5:45 p. m.			30,000	High wind and heavy rain.	Wind, from southwest to northeast of tornadic force, accompanied by heavy rain, 3.74 inches in 45 minutes at Canton along the eastern border of the county, wrecked a dozen farm buildings in the vicinity of Canton; damaged communication lines; washed out 300 feet of railroad track between Canton and Fairview. Property damage, \$30,000; crop loss from flooding in the lowlands heavy, but not estimated.
Ardmore, S. Dak., vicinity of.	3	5:15-5:30 p. m.				Heavy rain and hail.	Loss in grain and alfalfa 25 to 60 percent and about 100 percent to small fruits. Many birds, rabbits and some lambs killed; path narrow.
Sedgwick, Colo.	3	P. m.				Hail.	Loss in grain crops 50 percent. Storm local covering a small area over a narrow path.
Sioux City, Iowa, and vicinities.	3-4				500,000	Heavy rain, wind, electrical.	5.10 inches at Sioux City, establishing a new record for a 24-hour period. At the airport at Sergeant Bluff, 6.32 inches fell during the same period. The Sioux City Gas & Electric Co. officially reported this to be the most destructive storm to company property of record in the Sioux City area, but an estimate was not given. This storm extended over a wide area with heavy damage in Woodbury, Monona, and Crawford Counties. Loss in young chickens, turkeys, and pigs in Plymouth County. Greatest destruction of this storm from flooding and erosion. Due to flooding in the lowlands, there was \$500,000 crop loss in Monona County; in Maple Valley 80 percent, while in Willow Township, also in Woodbury County, a total loss of crops was estimated.
Hubbard Springs and Jonesville, Va.	4	5-6 p. m.	11		5,500	Hail	Crop loss, principally in tobacco and strawberries, \$5,000; property damage, \$500.
Burt, Cumming, Stanton, Madison, Thurston, Dakota, and Dixon Counties, Nebr.	4-5			5	500,000	Excessive rain and flood.	Crops destroyed; fields washed; hundreds of houses flooded and many washed from their foundations; highways, railroad tracks, and roadbeds washed out. The villages of Homer, Winnebago, and Pender wrecked.
Brandon and Venango, Nebr.	5	4 p. m.	880	0	10,000	Tornado and hail.	Farmhouse completely destroyed, 3 others damaged; loss to crops from hail.
Rising City, Nebr.	5	6 p. m.	12	0	10,000	Tornado.	No details.
McDonald, Kans., vicinity of.	5	6:15-6:30 p. m.	110-164	0	2,000	do.	Farm residence and buildings destroyed; path 15 miles long.
Park, Kans.	6	1:30 a. m.		0		do.	Lumber yard demolished; store and small buildings damaged.
Appleton, Wis., vicinity of.	6	8 p. m.			1,000	Thundersquall.	Damage to farm buildings; many trees blown over.
Haskell County, Kans., northern portion.	7	P. m.	12		1,500	Heavy hail.	Loss chiefly in wheat; path 14 miles long.
McDowell, Va., and vicinity.	7	6-8 p. m.			500	Hail.	Property damaged; loss in crops.
Palestine, Ill.	8				1,800	Wind.	Property damage, \$300; loss to crops, \$1,500.
Jackson, Wyo.	8					Snow.	Between 2 and 4 inches of snow fell in the Jackson Hole region.
North Canadian River, Okla., upper watershed.	9-10				16,500	Heavy rains.	Some overflow to bottomlands causing \$10,000 damage to bridges and highways; \$4,500 to matured crops, and \$2,000 to prospective crops.
Columbia, S. C.	10	6:30 p. m.			2,700	Electrical.	Property damaged.
Cattaraugus County, N. Y.	10				100,000	Thunderstorm.	Torrential rains accompanying this storm washed out 7 bridges and damaged approaches of 4 others; some loss to crops.
Erie County, N. Y., southern portion.	10				15,000	Heavy rain.	Damage to roads and bridges.
Roscoe, S. Dak., vicinity of.	16	1:30 a. m.	18		2,000	High wind.	Several farm buildings demolished; trees damaged; path 15 miles long.
Syracuse, Kans., and vicinities.	16	4 p. m.	16		5,000	Heavy hail.	Storm especially severe at Bray ranch, 5 miles west of Syracuse, where 50 sheep were killed. Large hailstones, piled 6 inches deep in places, damaged buildings and automobiles. Path 10 miles long.
Clay County, Minn., extreme southern portion.	16	7:30 p. m.	12		25,000	Thundersqualls and hail.	Property damaged by wind, \$2,500; by hail, \$2,500; crop loss from hail, \$20,000; path 25 miles long.
Land O'Lakes, Wis.	17	4:15 p. m.	100	1	2,500	Tornado.	Several persons injured when their home was demolished; path 5 1/4 miles long.
Lake Tomahawk, Wis.	17	4:30 p. m.	167	1	3,500	do.	Cottage blown into the lake causing the death of 1 person and injuring 3. Considerable damage to buildings.
Raceland, La., vicinity of.	17	5:10 p. m.	67	0	5,000	do.	Property damaged; 1 person injured.
Gramercy, La.	17	5:30 p. m.	20	0	1,500	do.	Property damaged.
Eureka, S. Dak., vicinity of.	17	6:05-6:35 p. m.	2,640			Heavy hail and high wind.	Building demolished; loss to crops not estimated; path 12 miles long.
Clark, S. Dak., southwest of.	17	9-9:30 p. m.	16			High wind and hail.	Loss in grain and small crops; path 12 miles long.
Minocqua, Wis., 15 miles northeast.	17		11			Wind and hail.	Hailstones, 1 to 3 inches in circumference, damaged roofs and windows.
South-central counties, Minn., extreme portion.	17-18	10:30 p. m.-12:30 a. m.			15,000	Thundersqualls.	Number of barns, outbuildings, silos, and windmills wrecked; wires down; trees uprooted; windows broken; large chimney toppled. General direction of the storm from northwest to southeast over a path 80 miles long.
Dubuque County, Iowa.	18	1:30 p. m.			7,050	Hail, wind and rain.	5 barns demolished and an end torn from another. In Dubuque, many trees or large branches broken damaging automobile tops and tearing down telephone and light wires.
Johnson County, Iowa.	18	5:30-6:15 p. m.			1,500	do.	Principal damage from hail. \$1,500 damage to windows in 2 greenhouses damaged to roofs of buildings and car tops not given.
Cattaraugus County, N. Y.	18				100,000	Thunderstorm with torrential rain.	Several bridges washed out; county roads badly damaged; much loss to crops.
St. Lawrence County, N. Y.	18					do.	Much loss to crops; property damaged.
Musselshell County, Mont.	20	4:15-5 p. m.		1	2,500	Wind and hail.	Trees and telephone poles down; small crop loss; 2 persons injured.
Ingomar and Vananda, Mont.	20	5:30 p. m.			20,000	do.	Considerable property damage; small crop loss; 1 person injured.
Brewster, Minn.	21	5:30 a. m.	2,640		2,300	Thunderstorm and hail.	Crop loss from hail, \$2,000; property damage, \$300.
Boone County, Iowa.	22	12:05 p. m.		0		Tornado.	Outbuilding on a farm damaged; a tree blown down and livestock killed on another.
Morrison, Fla.	22	2-3 p. m.	15-7		1,000-1,500	Heavy wind and hail.	Loss to crops; roofs blown off.
Cass County, Iowa.	22	3 p. m.		0		Tornado.	The storm, confined to a relatively small area, caused damage to buildings on 5 farms; 1 man injured.
Clayton County, Iowa.	22	4:30 p. m.		0	7,000	Tornado and hail.	No hail damage; amount estimated tornado damage to property.
Newell, S. Dak., vicinity of.	22	4:30-5 p. m.				High wind, heavy rain and hail.	Top growth of all crops destroyed; property damaged.
Red Cloud, Nebr.	22	6-8:30 p. m.	13		10,000	Hail.	Large hailstones cause property damage of \$7,000; loss from wind, \$300.
Wanblee and Interior, S. Dak., and vicinities.	22	7:30 p. m.	12		30,000	High wind.	School building wrecked; electric generator towers torn down; ranch house damaged; poultry killed; church blown from its foundation; fences and telephone lines down; small crop loss; 1 man injured.

SEVERE LOCAL STORMS—Continued

Place	Date	Time	Width of path, yards	Loss of life	Value of property destroyed	Character of storm	Remarks
Lyman County, S. Dak.....	22	9-9:30 p.m.	¹ 12-15	-----	1,250	High wind and heavy rain.	2.60 inches of rain recorded in 40 minutes. Between Vivian and Presho and southward, small buildings and windmills were wrecked; trees blown down and poultry killed. Interior of houses damaged by water when windows blew in; crop loss 50 percent to total loss in spots, not estimated.
Geddes, S. Dak., vicinity of..	22	10-11 p.m.	¹ 3	-----	-----	High wind.....	High northwest wind damaged several buildings and flattened crops.
Walhalla, S. O.....	22	P. m.	-----	-----	500	Electrical.....	Barn and contents destroyed.
Lovett, Fla., vicinity of.....	22	-----	-----	-----	-----	Wind and hail.....	Loss of 4 acres of tobacco.
Dubuque County, Iowa.....	22	-----	-----	-----	15,000	Heavy rain.....	2 bridges washed out.
Lower Michigan, southern portion.	22-23	-----	-----	2	-----	Thunderstorm.....	Unusually heavy rain and wind caused loss in crops and serious road wash-outs. Much wind damage reported from an area about 12 miles south of Jackson. 2 persons killed by lightning in the vicinity of Albion.
Garnett, Kans., and vicinities.	23	1:40 p. m.	17	0	5,000	Tornado.....	Number of houses and outbuildings damaged, especially in the 400 blocks on the eastern edge of the city and in the rural section east of Garnett. Many trees blown down; path 6 miles long.
Marion County, Ind.....	23	3:05 p. m.	¹ 2	-----	2,000	Wind.....	Hangar and 2 airplanes damaged.
Faith, S. Dak., and vicinity..	23	-----	-----	-----	6,400	Heavy rain and flood.	Rain, measuring 1.27 inches, washed out a bridge. Property damage, \$400; loss to crops, \$6,000.
Houma, La.....	24	9 a. m.	-----	-----	1,500	Thunderstorm.....	Schoolhouse damaged.
Bartholomew County, Ind.....	25	2:30 p. m.	1,760	-----	-----	Hail.....	Much loss in corn crop.
Greenville County, S. O.....	25	P. m.	1,320-2,100	-----	150,000	do.....	Storm came from the north and covered three-fourths of the county. Loss in fruit and crops.
Mount Carmel, Ill.....	26	-----	-----	-----	6,000	Wind.....	Property damaged.
Osmond, Nebr.....	27	4 p. m.	¹ 3	-----	30,000	Hail.....	No details.
Albion, Nebr.....	27	5:30 p. m.	¹ 1-2	-----	5,000	do.....	Do.
Stanton County, Nebr., southwestern portion.	27	6-7 p. m.	2,640	-----	30,000	do.....	Property damaged from hail, \$25,000; from wind, \$500.
Blair, Nebr.....	27	7 p. m.	¹ 2	-----	15,000	Wind and hail...	\$10,000 wind damage, mostly to trees; \$5,000 hail damage largely to corn and oats.
Wahoo, Nebr.....	27	do.....	¹ 3	0	13,000	Tornado and hail.	Wind damage, \$5,500; hail damage, \$7,500.
Taylor, Ringgold, Decatur, Wayne and Appanoose Counties, Iowa.	27	9-11 p. m.	-----	-----	50,000	Wind, rain and electrical.	Ringgold County reported heavy losses to buildings from fires; trees, light, and telephone wires down; much loss in fruit. In Centerville the municipal airport hangar and several barns damaged; 2 persons injured.
Kellerton, Iowa.....	27	-----	-----	0	-----	Tornado.....	3 funnel clouds observed; no details.
Dunbarton, Wis.....	27	-----	-----	-----	-----	Heavy hail.....	Much damage to corn and oats; path 6 miles long.
Castleton, Ill.....	28	-----	-----	-----	4,500	Wind.....	Property damaged.
Galva, Ill.....	28	-----	-----	-----	2,000	do.....	Do.
Woodhull, Ill.....	28	-----	-----	-----	500	do.....	Do.
Gibson, Warrick, and Vanderburg Counties, Ind.	28	-----	-----	-----	5,000	do.....	Buildings unroofed; trees down.
Alpena, Mich.....	28	-----	-----	-----	-----	Hail.....	Considerable damage to young shrubbery and outside greenhouse plants.
Niagara and Orleans Counties, N. Y.	30	11:30 a. m.	-----	-----	40,000	Heavy hail.....	Loss to fruit and vegetables in Niagara County, \$15,000; in Orleans County, \$25,000.

¹ Miles instead of yards.² From press reports.

LATE REPORTS FOR MAY 1940

Seminole to Ada, Okla., and vicinities.	20	4:30-5:30 p. m.	¹ 5	-----	-----	Heavy hail.....	The town of Kowana and Bowlegs were both in the path of the storm. Traffic stopped on Highway No. 99 from Kowana to Ada. In this area hail was piled to a depth of from 6 to 8 inches on the level, and, in some places, drifts were as much as 5 feet deep. Highway graders used to remove the hail from the blocked highways. Vegetation destroyed and farms and trees presented a midwinter scene. Many animals and fowls killed. Cotton, corn, and other farm products damaged to a great extent. An estimate of the damage not given.
Sterling and Elgin, Okla., vicinity of.	20	6:30 p. m.	¹ 3-5	-----	\$30,000	do.....	Loss in wheat, corn, and cotton, \$25,000; property damage, \$5,000.
Waurika, Okla., east of.....	20	8-9 p. m.	¹ 12	-----	150,000	Hail.....	Loss in wheat, oats, and cotton, \$125,000; farm animals killed, \$25,000; path 20 miles long.
Logan County, Okla.....	20	P. m.	¹ 2	-----	14,000	Heavy hail.....	Some property damaged; principal loss in wheat estimated at \$14,000; path 12 miles long.
Verden, Okla., north and east of.	21	4:30 p. m.	200	0	25,000	Tornado.....	Property destroyed or damaged; loss in livestock and to many fields of grain; path 5 miles long.
Mustang, Okla.....	21	P. m.	27	0	250	do.....	Storm dipped to the ground in 2 or 3 places, destroying a barn and causing other minor damage; path 1 mile long.

¹ Miles instead of yards.